

**NAPOLEON, AND
OTHER POEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649384723

Napoleon, and other poems by Bernard Barton

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BERNARD BARTON

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OTHER POEMS**

(12)

I.

NAPOLEON,

AND

OTHER POEMS.

N A P O L E O N,

AND

OTHER POEMS.

BY

BERNARD BARTON.

" Shelter'd, but not to social duties lost ;
Secluded, but not buried ; and with song
Cheering my days."

WORDSWORTH'S *Excursion*.

LONDON :

PRINTED FOR THOMAS BOYS, LUDGATE HILL.

1822.

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TO
GEORGE THE FOURTH;

AS THE MONARCH OF A NATION
EMINENTLY DISTINGUISHED
BY ITS HIGH PROFESSION OF CHRISTIANITY,
AND ITS ZEALOUS EFFORTS TO EXTEND THE GOSPEL;

The following Poem,

SUGGESTED BY THE LIFE AND DEATH OF
NAPOLEON BUONAPARTE;
AND INTENDED TO ADVOCATE THE CAUSE OF PEACE;

IS, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT,

INSCRIBED,

BY ITS AUTHOR.

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PREFACE.

FOR the first poem in this volume its author could wish to solicit the reader's peculiar indulgence; not so much on account of its poetical deficiencies, as for the views and sentiments contained in it. But before he presumes to offer a few remarks on behalf of these, he is desirous of being allowed a word or two in explanation of what, to the view of some, may appear a discrepancy between its title and contents.

The author is aware that a poem under the designation of "NAPOLEON," may suggest anticipations which his performance was never intended to realize: and, should he be compelled to plead guilty to a misnomer, he trusts his more candid readers will accept, as his apology, the simple statement of the fact, that the death of Napoleon actually gave rise to the reflections contained in the poem; and that its design was less "to adorn a tale," than "to point a moral," which

the chequered lot of this extraordinary man had strikingly suggested.

With regard to the sentiments expressed in the poem on the subject of war; the author rather wishes to submit them to the indulgence of his readers, and respectfully to request for them their serious reflection, than argumentatively to attempt their defence. He admits them to be the sentiments of one to whom ALL war, under the Christian dispensation, is unlawful. But as this opinion is the avowed and well-known tenet of a religious society, with which he has never concealed his own connexion, and whose faith and doctrine on this important topic is cordially assented to by him; he can hardly conceive it possible for what he has written either to excite surprise, or to give offence.

That war is an evil, is perhaps one of those truisms which require no elaborate demonstration. That it is incompatible with the mild and beneficent spirit of the Gospel, perhaps none, who rightly estimate and truly feel the influence of that spirit, will deny. If it be urged, as it frequently has been on the author in conversation, that the passions of men render war at